

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A signal processing apparatus comprising:

means for generating a luminance signal of an input video signal;

5 means for extracting a high frequency signal from said input video signal;

mask generating means for generating a mask by masking image quality degrading components contained in said high frequency signal;

gain factor generating means for generating a gain factor on the basis of said mask;

10 contour correction signal generating means for generating a contour correction signal by multiplying said high frequency signal with said gain factor; and

correcting means for correcting said luminance signal on the basis of said contour correction signal.

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2. The signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said mask generating means generates said mask by repeating an arbitrary number of times dilation processing or erosion processing for said high frequency signal.

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3. The signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting means for detecting either or both of an edge component and chroma component from said input video signal, wherein:

25 said gain factor generating means generates said gain factor that is based on said mask and controls the enhanced amount of either or both of said edge component and said chroma component.

4. A signal processing method comprising the steps of:

30 generating a luminance signal of an input video signal;

extracting a high frequency signal from said input video signal;

generating a mask by masking image quality degrading components contained in said high frequency signal;

generating a gain factor on the basis of said mask;

5 generating a contour correction signal by multiplying said high frequency signal by said gain factor; and

correcting said luminance signal on the basis of said contour correction signal.

5. A record medium storing a computer readable program that  
10 executes signal processing, said computer readable program comprising the steps of:

generating a mask by masking image quality degrading components contained in a high frequency signal extracted from an input video signal;

generating a gain factor on the basis of said mask;

15 generating a contour correction signal by multiplying said high frequency signal by said gain factor; and

correcting a luminance signal of said input video signal on the basis of said contour correction signal.

20 6. A program that has a computer execute signal processing, said program comprising the steps of:

generating a mask by masking an image quality degrading component contained in a high frequency signal extracted from an input video signal;

25 generating a gain factor on the basis of said mask;

generating a contour correction signal by multiplying said high frequency signal by said gain factor; and

correcting a luminance signal of said input video signal on the basis of said contour correction signal.

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